

## ABSTRACT

An aromatic polyester is pre-decomposed by heating together with bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or a low condensate thereof and then, reacted with ethylene glycol to convert the terephthalic acid component of the pre-decomposed product into bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and/or a low condensate thereof.

The thus obtained solution composition, that is, bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate solution composition containing ethylene glycol, bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and cations and/or anions as impurities is brought into contact with a cation exchanger and/or an anion exchanger to remove cations and anions as impurities to produce bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate having a small content of ions.

The bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate-containing mixture having a small content of ions is subjected to preliminary evaporation or distillation to distill off a compound having a boiling point lower than that of bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate and then, to evaporation or distillation under reduced pressure to give purified bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate.

Thus, purified bis- $\beta$ -hydroxyethyl terephthalate having a cation and anion total content of 15 ppm or less is obtained.